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AN ORDINANCE amending the King County Zoning Code which regulates the use and maintenance of buildings, structures, premises and land in the county of King; providing penalties for violation of zoning regulations; providing for enforcement procedures; and repealing all ordinances in conflict therewith.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY AS FOLLOWS:

CHAPTER 1 - REPEALER

Section 101. Resolutions Sections of the King County Code which are repealed by this ordinance:

- (1) Resolution No. 25789, §3302 and King County Code 24.68.030 passed April 29, 1963
- (2) Resolution No. 25789, §3400 and King County Code 24.69.010 passed April 29, 1963

CHAPTER 2 - ENFORCEMENT

Section 201. (a) <u>ADMINISTRATION</u>. The Director of Building is hereby authorized to enforce the provisions of this code.

- (b) <u>INSPECTIONS</u>. The Director of Building and his authorized representative are hereby authorized to make such inspections and take such actions as may be required to enforce the provisions of this code.
- inspection to enforce any of the provisions of this code, or whenever the Director of Building or his authorized representative has reasonable cause to believe that any building, structure, premises, land, or portion thereof is being used in violation of this code, the building official or his authorized representative may enter such building, structure, premises, land, or portion thereof at all reasonable times to inspect the same or perform any duty imposed upon the Director of Building by this

code; provided that (i) if such building, structure, premises, land, or portion thereof be occupied, he shall first present proper credentials and demand entry; and (ii) if such building, structure, premises, land, or portion thereof be unoccupied, he shall first make a reasonable effort to locate the owner or other persons having charge or control of the building, structure, premises, land, or portion thereof and demand entry.

No owner or occupant or any other person having charge, care or control of any building, structure, premises, land, or portion thereof shall fail or neglect after proper demand to promptly permit entry thereon by the Director of Building or his authorized representative for the purpose of inspection and examination pursuant to this code. Any person violating this subdivision shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

Section 202. ZONING VIOLATIONS SHALL BE ABATED. All violations of this code are determined to be detrimental to the public health, safety, and welfare and are hereby declared to be public nuisances. All conditions which are determined after inspection of the Director of Building to render any building, structure, premises, land or portion thereof to be used or maintained in violation of this code shall be abated.

Section 203. <u>ABATEMENT DEFINED</u>. For purposes of this code, abatement of a zoning violation is defined as the termination of any zoning violation by reasonable and lawful means determined by the Director of Building, in order that a building, structure, premises, land; or portion thereof shall be made to comply with this code.

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Section 204. VIOLATIONS - MISDEMEANOR. It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, corporation or other organization whether as owner, lessee, sublessee, or occupant, to allow, use or maintain any building, structure, premises, land, or portion thereof contrary to or in violation of any of the provisions of this code or any order issued by the Director of Building Any person violating the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor for each day such violation continues.

Section 205. CIVIL PENALTY. In addition to or as an alternate to any other penalty provided herein or by law, any person, firm, corporation or other organization who violates any of the provisions of this code or by each act of commission omission procures, aids or abets such violation shall incur a cumulative civil penalty in the amount of three dollars per day, per each violation, plus billable costs of the Department of Building, from the date set for compliance until such violation is corrected or such notice of violation or order is complied with.

All civil penalties will be enforced and collected in accordance with the procedure specified in this code.

Section 206. ADDITIONAL ENFORCEMENT. Notwithstanding the existence or use of any other remedy, the Director of Building may seek legal or equitable relief to enjoin any acts or practices and abate any conditions which constitute or will constitute a violation of this code or other regulations herein adopted.

Section 207. APPEALS. The King County Board of Appeals as established by Article 7 of the King County Charter is hereby designated to hear appeals by parties aggrieved by actions of the Director of Building pursuant to this code. The Board may adopt reasonable rules and regulations for conducting its

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business. Copies of all rules or regulations adopted by the Board shall be delivered to the Director of Building who shall make them freely accessible to the public. All decisions and findings of the Board shall be rendered to the appellant in writing with a copy to the Director of Building.

CHAPTER 3 - NOTICE AND ORDERS OF DIRECTOP OF BUILDING

Section 301 (a) COMMENCEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS. Whenever the Director of Building has inspected or caused to be inspected any building, structure, premises, land, or portion thereof and has found and determined that such building, structure, premises, land, or portion thereof is used or maintained in violation of this Code, he shall commence proceedings to cause the abatement of each violation.

- (b) NOTICE AND ORDER. The Director of Building shall issue a notice and order directed to the record owner of the building, structure, premises, land, or portion thereof. The notice and order shall contain:
- 1. The street address when available and a legal description sufficient for identification of the building, structure, premises, land, or portion thereof, upon which the violation(s) is (are) located.
- 2. A statement that the Director of Building has found the building, structure, premises, land, or portion thereof to be used or maintained illegally with a brief and concise description of the conditions found to render the building, structure, premises, land, or portion thereof in violation of this code.
- 3. A statement of the action required to be taken as determined by the Director of Building.

(i) If the Director of Building has determined that the building, structure, premises, land, or portion thereof must be abated, the order shall require that all required permits be secured therefor and the work physically commenced within such time and completed within such time as the Director of Building shall determine is reasonable under all of the circumstances.

- (ii) If the Director of Building has determined to assess a civil penalty, the order shall require that the penalty shall be paid within a time certain from the date of the order as determined by the Director of Building to be reasonable.
- 4. Statements advising that if any required abatement is not commenced within the time specified, the Director of Building will proceed to cause the work to be done and charge the costs thereof against the property or its owner.
- 5. Statements advising (i) that any person having any record title or legal interest in the building, structure, premises, land, or portion thereof may appeal from the notice and order or any action of the Director of Building to the Board of Appeals, provided the appeal is made in writing as provided in this Code, and filed with the Director of Building within 30 days from the date of service of such notice and order; and (ii) that failure to appeal will constitute a waiver of all right to an administrative hearing and determination of the matter.
- order, and any amended or supplemental notice and order, shall be served upon the record owner, and posted on the property; and one copy thereof shall be served on each of the following disclosed from official public records: the holder of any mortgage or deed of trust or other lien or encumbrance of record; the owner of holder of any lease of record; and the

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holder of any other estate or legal interest of record in or to the building, structure, premises or land. The failure of the Director of Building to serve any person required herein to be served shall not invalidate any proceedings hereunder as to any other person duly served or relieve any such person from any duty or obligation imposed on him by the provisions of this Section.

- order shall be made upon all persons entitled thereto either personally or by mailing a copy of such notice and order by certified mail, postage prepaid, return receipt requested, to each such person at his address as it appears on the last equalized assessment roll of the county. If no address of any such person so appears then a copy of the notice and order shall be so mailed, addressed to such person, at the address of the building, structure, premises, or land, involved in the proceedings. The failure of any such person to receive such notice shall not affect the validity of any proceedings taken under this Section. Service by certified mail in the manner herein provided shall be effective on the date of mailing.
- (e) PROOF OF SERVICE. Proof of service of the notice and order shall be made at the time of service by a written declaration under penalty of perjury executed by the person effecting service, declaring the time, date and manner in which service was made.

Section 302. FILING CEPTIFICATE. If compliance is not had with the order within the time specified therein, and no appeal has been properly and timely filed, the Director of Building shall file in the office of the Department of Records and Elections a certificate describing the property and certifying (i) that the building, structure, premises, land, or portion

thereof is used or maintained in violation of this Code and (ii) that the owner has been so notified. Whenever the corrections ordered shall thereafter have been completed on the property described in the certificate, the Director of Building shall file a new certificate with the Department of Records and Elections certifying that the required corrections have been made so that the building, structure, premises, land, or portion thereof is no longer used or maintained in violation of this Code.

Section 303. STANDARDS. The standards of the current Zoning Code shall be followed by the Director of Building (and by the Board of Appeals if appeal is taken) in determining the existence of a zoning violation and in determining the abatement work required to make any building, structure, premises, land, or portion thereof comply with this code.

CHAPTER 4 - APPEAL

Section 401. (a) FORM OF APPEAL. Any person entitled to service under Section 301 (c) may appeal from any notice and order or any action of the Director of Building under this Code by filing at the office of the Director of Building within 30 days from the date of the service of such order, a written appeal containing:

- 1. A heading in the words: "Before the Board of Appeals of the County of King."
- 2. A caption reading: "Appeal of _____"
 giving the names of all appellants participating in the appeal.
- 3. A brief statement setting forth the legal interest of each of the appellants in the building, structure, premises, land, or portion thereof involved in the notice and order.

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- 4. A brief statement in concise language of the specific order or action protested, together with any material facts claimed to support the contentions of the appellant.
- 5. A brief statement in concise language of the relies sought, and the reasons why it is claimed the protested order or action should be reversed, modified, or otherwise set aside.
- 6. The signatures of all parties named as appellants, and their official mailing addresses.
- 7. The verification (by declaration under penalty of perjury) of at least one appellant as to the truth of the matters stated in the appeal.
- (b) PROCESSING OF APPEAL. Upon receipt of any appeal filed pursuant to this Section, the Director of Building shall present it at the next regular or special meeting of the Board of Appeals.
- soon as practicable after receiving the written appeal the Board of Appeals shall fix a date, time, and place for the hearing of the appeal by the Board. Such date shall be not less than 10 days nor more than 60 days from the date the appeal was filed with the Director of Building. Written notice of the time and place of the hearing shall be given at least 10 days prior to the date of the hearing to each appellant by the secretary of the Board either by causing a copy of such notice to be delivered to the appealant personally or by mailing a copy thereof, postage prepaid, addressed to the appellant at his address shown on the appeal.

Section 402. Failure of any person to file an appeal in accordance with the provisions of Section 401 shall constitute a waiver of his right to an administrative hearing and adjudication of the notice and order, or any portion thereof.

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Section 403. Only those matters or issues specifically raised by the appellant in the written notice of appeal shall be considered in the hearing of the appeal.

Section 404. Enforcement of any notice and order of the Director of Building issued under this Code shall be stayed during the pendency of an appeal therefrom which is properly and timely filed.

CHAPTER 5 - PROCEDURE FOR CONDUCT OF HEARING APPEALS

Section 501. (a) HEARING EXAMINERS. The Board may appoint one or more hearing examiners or designate one or more of its members to serve as hearing examiners to conduct the hearings. The examiner hearing the case shall exercise all powers relating to the conduct of hearings until it is submitted by him to the Board for decision.

- (b) <u>RECORD</u>. A permanent record of the entire proceedings shall be made by any means of permanent recording determined to be appropriate by the Board.
- (c) <u>REPORTING</u>. A transcript of the proceedings shall be made available to all parties upon request and upon payment of the fee prescribed therefor. Such fees may be established by the Board and collected by the Department of Building for deposit in the general fund, but shall in no event be greater than the cost involved.

for good c. se snown; nowever, when a hearing examiner has been assigned to such hearing, no continuances may be granted except by him for good cause shown.

(u) CONTINUANCES. The Board may grant continuances

(e) OATHS - CERTIFICATION. In any proceedings under this chapter, the Board, any board member, or the hearing examiner has the power to administer oaths and affirmations and to certify to official acts.

(f) <u>REASONABLE DISPATCH</u> . The Board and its repre-	
sentatives shall proceed with reasonable dispatch to conclude	
any matter before it. Due regard shall be shown for the con-	•
venience and necessity of any parties or their representatives	3.

Section 502. NOTICE TO ARPELLANT. The notice to appellant shall be substantially in the following form, but may include other information:

held before (the Board or name of hearing examiner)
at on the day of,
19, at the hour of, upon the notice
and order served upon you. You may be present at
the hearing. You may be, but need not be, represented
by counsel. You may present any relevant evidence and
will be given full opportunity to cross-examine all
witnesses testifying against you. You may request
the issuance of subpoenas to compel the attendance
of witnesses and the production of books, documents
or other things by filing an affidavit therefor with
(Board of name of hearing Examiner)."
013 503 /) 777 7115 211 227 227

"You are hereby notified that a hearing will be

Section 503. (a) FILING AN AFFIDAVIT. The Board or examiner may obtain the issuance and service of a subpoena for the attendance of witnesses or the production of other evidence at a hearing upon the request of a member of the Board or upon the written demand of any narty. The issuance and service of

such subpoend shall be obtained upon the filing of an affidavit therefor which states the name and address of the proposed witness; specifies the exact things sought to be produced and the materiality thereof; and states that the witness has the desired things in his possession or under his control. A subpoena need not be issued when the affidavit is defective in any particular.

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(b) <u>CASES REFERED TO EXAMINEP</u>. In cases where a hearing is referred to an examiner, all subpoenas shall be obtained through the examiner.

(c) <u>PENALTIES</u>. Any person who refuses without lawful excuse to attend any hearing, or to produce material evidence in his possession or under his control as required by any subpoena served upon such person as provided for herein shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

Section 504. (a) RULES. Hearings need not be conducted according to the technical rules relating to evidence and witnesses.

- (b) <u>ORAL EVIDENCE</u>. Oral evidence shall be taken only on oath or affirmation.
- (c) <u>HEARSAY EVIDENCE</u>. Hearsay evidence may be used for the purpose of supplementing or explaining any direct evidence, but shall not be sufficient in itself to support a finding unless it would be admissible over objection in civil actions in courts of competent jurisdiction in this state.
- (d) <u>ADMISSIBILITY OF EVIDENCE</u>. Any relevant evidence shall be admitted if it is the type of evidence on which responsible persons are accustomed to rely in the conduct of serious affairs, regardless of the existence of any common law or statutory rule which might make improper the admission of such evidence over objection in civil actions in courts of competent jurisdiction in this state.
- (e) EXCLUSION OF EVIDENCE. Irrelevant and unduly repetitious evidence shall be excluded.
- (f) <u>RIGHTS OF PARTIES</u>. Each party shall have these rights, among others:
- 1. To call and examine witnesses on any matter relevant to the issues of the hearing:

- 2. To introduce documentary and physical evidence;
- 3. To cross-examine opposing witnesses on any matter relevant to the issues of the hearing;
- 4. To impeach any witness regardless of which party first called him to testify;
 - 5. To rebut the evidence against him;
- 6. To represent himself or to be represented by anyone of his choice who is lawfully permitted to do so.
 - (g) OFFICIAL NOTICE.
- 1. What may be noticed. In reaching a decision, official notice may be taken either before or after submission of the case for decision of any fact which may be judicially noticed by the courts of this state or of official records of the Board or Departments and ordinances of the county or rules and regulations of the Board.
- 2. Parties to be notified. Parties present at the hearing shall be informed of the matters to be noticed, and these matters shall be noted in the record, referred to therein, or appended thereto.
- 3. Opportunity to refute. Parties present at the hearing shall be given a reasonable opportunity, on request, to refute the officially noticed matters by evidence or by written or oral presentation of authority, the manner of such refutation to be determined by the Board or hearing examiner.
- 4. <u>Inspection of the premises</u>. The Board or the hearing examiner may inspect any building, structure, premises, land, or portion thereof involved in the appeal during the course of the hearing, provided that (i) notice of such inspection shall be given to the parties before the inspection is made, (ii) the parties are given an opportunity to be present during the inspection, and (iii) the Board or the hearing examiner shall state for

the record upon completion of the inspection the material facts observed and the conclusions drawn therefrom. Each party then shall have a right to rebut or explain the matters so stated by the Board or hearing examiner.

Section 505. (a) HEARING BEFORE BOARD ITSELF. Where a contested case is heard before the Board itself, no member thereof who did not hear the evidence or has not read the entire record of the proceedings shall vote or take part in the decision.

- (b) HEARING BEFORE EXAMINER. If contested case is heard by a hearing examiner alone, he shall within a reasonable time (not to exceed 90 days from the date the hearing is closed) submit a written report to the Board. Such report shall contain a brief summary of the evidence considered and state the examiner's findings, conclusions and recommendations. The report also shall contain a proposed decision in such form that it may be adopted by the Board as its decision in the case. All examiner's reports filed with the Board shall be matters of public record. A copy of each such report and proposed decision shall be mailed to each party on the date they are filed with the Board.
- (c) CONSIDERATION OF REPORT BY BOARD NOTICE. The Board shall fix a time, date, and place to consider the examin r's report and proposed decision. Notice thereof shall be mailed to each interested party not less than five days prior to the date fixed, unless it is otherwise stipulated by all of the parties.
- (d) EXCEPTIONS TO REPORT. Not later than two days before the date set to consider the report, any party may file written exceptions to any part or all of the examiner's report and may attach thereto a proposed decision together with written argument in support of such decision. By leave of the Board, any party may present oral argument to the Board.

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DISPOSITION BY THE BOARD. The Board may adopt or reject the proposed decision in its entirety, or may modify the proposed decision.

- PROPOSED DECISION NOT ADOPTED. If the proposed decision is not adopted as provided in Subsection (3), the Board may decide the case upon the entire record before it, with or without taking additional evidence; or may refer the case to the same or another hearing examiner to take additional evidence. If the case is reassigned to a hearing examiner, he shall prepare a report and proposed decision as provided in Subsection (b) hereof, after any additional evidence is submitted. Consideration of such proposed decision by the Board shall comply with the provisions of this Section.
- (q) FORM OF DECISION. The decision shall be in writing and shall contain findings of fact, a determination of the issues presented, and the requirements to be complied with. A copy of the decision shall be delivered to the appellant personally or sent to him by certified mail, postage prepaid, return receipt requested.
- EFFECTIVE DATE OF DECISION. The effective date of the decision shall be as stated therein.

CHAPTER 6 - ENFORCEMENT OF THE ORDER OF THE DIRECTOR OF BUILDING OR THE BOARD OF APPEALS.

> Section 601. (a) GENERAL. After any order of the

Director of Building or the Board of Appeals made nursuant to this Code shall have become final, no person to whom any such order is directed shall fail, neglect, or refuse to obey any such order. Any such person who fails to comply with any such order is guilty of a misdemeanor.

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(b) FAILURE TO OBEY ORDER. If, after any order of the Director of Building or Board of Appeals made pursuant to this Code has become final, the person to whom such order is directed shall fail, neglect or refuse to obey such order, the Director of Building may (i) cause such person to be prosecuted under Subsection (a) of this section, (ii) institute any appropriate action to assess a civil penalty or abate the zoning violation, or both, in order to correct the conditions which render the building, structure, premises, or portion thereof in violation of this Code.

Section 602. TIME EXTENSION. Upon receipt of an application from the person required to conform to the order and an agreement by such person that he will comply with the order if allowed additional time, the Director of Building may, in his discretion, grant an extension of time, not to exceed an additional 120 days, within which to complete the abatement, if the Director of Building determines that such an extension of time will not create or perpetuate a situation imminently dangerous to life or property. The Director of Building's authority to extend time is limited to abatement of the zoning violation and will not in any way affect or extend the time to appeal his notice and order.

Section 603. VIOLATION TO IMPEDE ABATEMENT. No person shall obstruct, impede or interfere with any officer, employee, contractor or any other authorized representative of the county, or with any person who owns or holds any estate or interest in any building, structure, premises, land, or portion thereof which has been ordered abated, or with any person to whom such building, structure, premises, land, or portion thereof has been lawfully sold, whenever such officer, employee, contractor or authorized representative of the county, person having an interest or estate

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in such building, structure, premises, land, or portion thereof, or purchaser is engaged in the work of abatement pursuant to this Code, or in performing any necessary act preliminary to or incidental to such work authorized and directed pursuant to this Code.

CHAPTER 7 - PERFORMANCE OF WORK OF ABATEMENT.

Section 701 (a) PROCEDURE AND COSTS OF WORK OF ABATEMENT Whenever the Director of Building shall cause abatement of a zoning violation to be done pursuant to this code, the Director of Building at his discretion shall have the work accomplished under his direction by private contract or by county personnel. Plans and specifications for the work may be prepared by the Director of Building, or he may employ such architectural and engineering assistance on a contract basis as he may deem The Director of Building shall follow reasonably necessary. standard public works contractual procedures for all work accomplished by private contract.

- COSTS. The cost of such work shall be paid from amounts appropriated for abatement purposes and shall be made both a lien against the property involved and a personal obligation of the property owner.
- SURPLUS PAID OVER. Any surplus realized from the sale of any such building, structure, premises, land, portion thereof, or from the abatement thereof, over and above the cost of abatement and of cleaning the lot shall be paid over to the person or persons lawfully entitled thereto.

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Section 801. LIEN AUTHORIZED. King County has a lien for any civil penalty imposed or the cost of any work of abatement done pursuant to this code, or both, against the real property on which the civil penalty was imposed or any of the above works performed.

Section 802. PERSONAL OBLIGATION AUTHORIZED. The civil penalty and the cost of abatement are also personal obligations The prosecuting attorney on behalf of of the property owner. King County may collect the civil penalty and the abatement work costs by use of all appropriate legal remedies.

Section 803. NOTICE LIEN MAY BE CLAIMED. and Order of the Director of Building pursuant to Chapter 11 of this code shall give notice to the owner that a lien for the civil penalty or the cost of abatement, or both, may be claimed by King County.

Section 804. PRIORITY. The Lien shall be subordinate to all existing special assessment liens previously imposed upon the same property, and shall be paramount to all other liens except for state and county taxes with which it shall be upon a parity.

Section 805. The Director of CLAIM OF LIEN-GENERAL. Building shall cause a claim for lien to be filed for record in the office of the Department of Record and Elections within 90 days from the date the civil penalty is due or within 90 days

from the date of completion of the work or abatement performed pursuant to this code.

- (a) Contents. The claim of lien shall contain the following:
 - (i) The authority for imposing a civil penalty or undertaking the abatement work, or both;

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been filed unless an action is commenced in the proper court

A brief description of the civil penalty

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within that time to enforce the lien.

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Section 808. FORECLOSURE - PARTIES. The lien pro-1 vided by this ordinance may be foreclosed and enforced by a civil 2 action in a court having jurisdiction. 3 (a) Joinder. All persons who have legally filed claims 4 of liens against the same property prior to commencement of the 5 action shall be joined as parties, either plaintiff or defendant. 6 (b) Actions Prohibited. No person shall begin an action 7 to foreclose a lien upon any property while a prior action begun 8 to foreclose another lien on the same property is pending, but if 9 not made a party plaintiff or defendant to such prior action, 10 he may apply to the court to be joined as a party thereto, and 11 his lien may be foreclosed in such action. 12 (c) Actions Saved. Dismissal of an action to fore-13 close a lien at the instance of a plaintiff shall not prejudice 14 another party to the suit who claims a lien. 15 Section 809. 16 COSTS OF ENFORCEMENT ACTION. In addition to costs and disbursements provided for by statute, the prevailing 17 party in a foreclosure action or collection action under this 18 Code may, in the court's discretion, be allowed interest and 19 a reasonable attorney's fee. 20 The Prosecuting Attorney shall seek such costs, interest, and reasonable attorney's fees on behalf of 21 King County when the county is the prevailing party." 22 PASSED by the Council at a regular meeting thereof on 23 24 , 19 72 25 KING COUNTY COUNCIL KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON 26 27 28 ATTEST: 29 30 the Council 31 APPROVED this day of 32 33 CHRISTOPHER T. BAYLEY W554 King County Courthouse Seattle, Washington 98104 344-2550 Proposed zoning ordinance - 19